

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTIONS OF EIGHT NEW BIRDS FROM
ISLANDS OFF THE WEST COAST
OF SUMATRA.*

BY CHARLES W. RICHMOND.

A collection of several hundred bird skins made by Dr. W. L. Abbott during the winter of 1901-2 on various islands off the west coast of Sumatra has been lately received at the United States National Museum. This material was gathered chiefly on Simalur Island; but birds from the small islands of Pulo Babi and Pulo Lasia, southeast of Simalur, and from the Banjak Islands are also well represented.

The collection proves to be of unusual interest, and contains several apparently unnamed species, eight of which are described below.

***Macropygia simalurensis* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,067, U. S. National Museum, Simalur Island (west coast of Sumatra), December 9, 1901, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Head (except ear-coverts), underparts (except middle of breast and abdomen), under wing-coverts and axillaries, reddish chestnut; feathers of chest with dusky blackish bases which are more or less visible; middle of breast and abdomen cinnamon; ear-coverts, sides of neck, and nape cinnamon, with dull black bars; feathers of sides of neck with

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green and amethyst reflections; mantle and scapulars sepia, the feathers of the latter with reddish chestnut tips; wings and wing-coverts of the same color, the feathers (mainly of the coverts) edged with reddish chestnut, the lesser coverts being entirely of this color, and the middle coverts nearly so; back, rump, and upper tail-coverts burnt umber, the feathers with rather paler edges; three central pairs of rectrices Prout's brown, outer feathers cinnamon rufous, each with a dusky black (gray on under surface) oblique patch near the tip, mainly on the inner web.

Length (in flesh), 324 mm.; wing, 157; tail, 167; tarsus, 18; culmen, 14.

The female differs in being duller below, with more prominent black mottling on the foreneck and chest; the tertiaries, secondaries, wing-coverts, back, rump and upper tail coverts are more heavily edged with reddish chestnut (paler than in the male); sides of neck, nape, and mantle dull blackish, with pale cinnamon and whitish bars (no glossy reflections), and the forehead is heavily streaked with black. "Iris bluish gray; feet dark purple brown; bill dark brown; black at tip."

The nearest relative of this species appears to be *M. ruficeps*.

Palæornis major sp. nov.

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,111, U. S. National Museum, Pulo Babi (west coast of Sumatra), January 14, 1902, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Identical in color with *P. fasciatus*, but much larger.

Length (in the flesh), 438 mm.; wing, 192; tail, 230; tarsus, 18; culmen, 18.

A male *P. fasciatus* from the Andaman islands measures: length, 387 mm.; wing, 168; tail, 200. A specimen of the same sex from Tenasserim, has a total length of 324 mm.; wing, 150; tail, 140.

Seven specimens of *P. major* from Pulo Babi and Pulo Lasia are very large and agree in dimensions with the type.

Psittinus abbotti sp. nov.

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,106. U. S. National Museum, Simalur Island (west coast of Sumatra), December 11, 1901, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Mantle, scapulars, tertiaries, and inner middle and greater wing-coverts, parrot green, the feathers with paler edges, those of the tertiaries and wing-coverts with yellowish green edges; back cobalt blue; rump, upper tail-coverts, middle pair of tail feathers, outer wing-coverts, and upper surface of primaries and secondaries, grass green, each feather with a paler green border; innermost lesser wing-coverts maroon purple; edge of wing and primary coverts greenish blue; head, including nape and hind neck, campanula blue, duller on the sides, becoming green (between emerald and apple green) on the forehead, lores, anterior part of crown and round the eyes, the green feathers being tipped with campanula blue; a narrow band of bluish black feathers separates the blue of

the head from the green mantle. Underparts, including under tail-coverts, apple green; under wing-coverts and axillaries carmine; under surface of wing and under primary coverts sooty black, a few of the outer primaries with narrow yellowish edges; tail (except middle pair of feathers), pale lemon yellow, with a greenish wash on outer webs and at tips. "Iris pale yellow; cere dull green; feet greenish; upper mandible red, lower pale fleshy brown." Length (in flesh), 216 mm.; wing, 141; tail, 59; tarsus, 16; culmen, 22.

The black band on the hind neck is much broader on another male. The female is duller in color, and has a green head.

***Thriponax parvus* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,160, U. S. National Museum, Simalur Island (west coast of Sumatra), December 3, 1901, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Similar to *T. javensis*, but of very much smaller dimensions.

Length, 362 mm.; wing, 169; tail, 124; tarsus, 28; culmen, 39 (bill from gape, 42).

A male of *T. javensis*, from the Malay Peninsula, measures: length (in flesh), 457 mm.; wing, 227; tail, 160; tarsus, 36; culmen, 58.

Twelve specimens, from Simalur Island, all agreeing with the measurements given above.

***Hypothymis abbotti* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,426, U. S. National Museum, Pulo Babi (west coast of Sumatra), January 11, 1902, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Wholly blue, without the black occipital spot and band across fore-neck of *H. azurea*. The color is bright light cyanine blue (of Ridgway's 'Nomenclature of Colors'), with a tinge of deep campanula blue on breast, abdomen, and sides. Wings and tail black, with a bluish shade above; under wing-coverts and axillaries, dusky gray, with bluish tips; wing feathers, from below, with dusky gray edges.

Length (in flesh), 181 mm.; wing, 76; tail, 77; tarsus, 19; culmen, 13 (bill from gape, 20).

This species seems to have no near relative; *H. puella* from Celebes being entirely different. It is strictly congeneric with *H. azurea*, and has the ruff of feathers on the fore-neck common to species of this genus.

Known from Pulo Babi and Pulo Iasia, on the west coast of Sumatra.

***Hypothymis consobrina* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,433, U. S. National Museum, Simalur Island (west coast of Sumatra), December 24, 1901, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

This species is similar to *H. tyleri*, from the Andaman islands, but has

a shorter wing and tail, and a narrower black band across the fore-neck; the abdomen appears to be of a rather deeper blue.

Length (in the flesh), 165 mm.; wing, 68; tail, 68; tarsus, 16; culmen, 12, (bill, from gape, 18).

***Malacopteron notatum* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,346, U. S. National Museum, Pulo Bang Karu, Banjak Islands (west coast of Sumatra), January 17, 1902, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Top of head, including nape, sooty black; lores, a narrow line round the eye, cheeks, entire underparts, under wing-coverts, and axillaries, white, the feathers of cheeks, throat and chest obscurely streaked with dusky; ear-coverts, smoke gray; sides of neck and mantle brownish drab-gray (each feather white at base), shading into wood brown on back, rump and tertiaries; wing-coverts and edges of primaries and secondaries rather grayer in color; upper tail-coverts deep cinnamon-rufous, the feathers white at their bases; tail Prout's brown, the inner webs of the feathers edged with pale rufous; wing feathers dusky, with white edges on lower surface of inner webs.

Length, 178 mm.; wing, 77; tail, 69; tarsus, 23.5; culmen, 17 (bill, from gape, 21.5).

This species is related to *M. affine* (Blyth.), but has a sooty black cap instead of a brownish black one, and there are other minor differences of color. It differs from *M. cantori* (Moore) in having a distinct cap, in lacking a decided malar stripe, etc.

***Stachyris banjakensis* sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, No. 179,344, U. S. National Museum, Pulo Tuanku, Banjak Islands (west coast of Sumatra), January 24, 1902, Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Similar to *S. maculata*, from Borneo, but larger, and color of nape and back grayer.

Length, 200 mm.; wing, 87; tail, 71; tarsus, 27; culmen, 22 (bill, from gape, 27). "Iris brownish yellow; feet, leaden; bill, black, leaden beneath; naked skin on sides of neck pale blue."